



PC PRICE TEST 2005

Are you after the perfect office PC, an all-round family computer or a supercharged gaming system? In this month's super-Labs we've tested 18 PCs across the price spectrum to find out exactly what you can get for your money

At Computer Shopper Labs we usually review a group of between six and 10 desktop PCs every month. We ask every manufacturer to provide the best PC it can build without exceeding a set price limit. Only the very best PCs are rewarded with our Best Buy award, so if you buy one you're guaranteed a powerful computer that's great value for money.

This is ideal if you know how much you want to spend. Once a year, though, we take a broader view in our special PC Price Test. Our aim is to look at a cross-section of the entire mainstream PC market. In the PC Price Test we perform our usual exhaustive tests on no fewer than 18 PC systems in three different price groups. We've lifted the bonnet of inexpensive PCs that cost less than £650 including VAT and delivery, powerful PCs that cost less than £900 and supercharged systems that cost less than £1,200. As well as unearthing the perfect PC for every pocket, this unique test shows you exactly what you can expect to gain by spending more – and what you can save if you're prepared to make specific compromises. It's the definitive PC Labs and is unique to Britain's biggest computer magazine.

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£900 PCs

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£1,200 PCs

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CHOOSING YOUR PERFECT PC

How much do you have to spend to get your perfect PC that will do everything you need it to do? Read our guide to find out what you can expect to get for your money

There's a computer here to suit every user. If you have a set budget, we'll show you which PC gives you the most for your money. If you can be more flexible, we'll explain what you gain by spending a little more on your PC.

The boxes below show what kind of features you should expect at each of the price ranges in this test. As well as the essentials you should expect, we'll explain what kind of extras you can get if you shop carefully.

We'll also discuss the kind of weaknesses that are typical in each price bracket. You might decide that these are unimportant to you, but otherwise bear them in mind as something to watch out for and then avoid.

£650 PCs

GOOD FOR those who are on a tight budget, or who are buying a PC for simple jobs such as paperwork and internet use. These days £650 buys a very competent PC with plenty of power and useful features.



KEY BENEFITS

Cost is the main benefit, and it needn't be a false economy provided all the money has been spent on parts you will find useful. Some systems sacrifice 3D performance, for example, to spend the money saved elsewhere. If you know you won't play action games, such a PC would be ideal. If you're not sure what you'll use your PC for, look for a system with reasonable performance in both our 2D and 3D benchmarks.

WEAK POINTS

Although these systems can handle a range of everyday jobs with ease, and some can take on difficult tasks such as 3D games, they're fairly basic. For cutting-edge speed or luxury parts such as a 19" screen, you'll need to spend more.

THE DETAILS

Today's £650 PCs are very capable. You can use them to browse the web, watch DVDs and run office applications without a hitch. You should be able to try your hand at more difficult tasks such as video and photo editing, but for sophisticated work you'll need a more powerful computer.

Inexpensive PCs, such as the Systemax, often can't play games at all. If you shop around, though, you'll find a few, such as the Mesh, that can play the latest titles.

Make sure that you can keep your new PC up to date by adding upgrades in the future. Some £650 systems use older technology that will be tricky to upgrade. If you want to add more power in future, look for a Socket 939 or 775 processor slot and PCI Express graphics.

Warranties are also important, and some cheaper PCs come with very limited cover. We always recommend you have at least one year of onsite cover.

£900 PCs

GOOD FOR those who need a bit more power, luxury peripherals or extra features. £900 PCs are faster, and often include a high-quality keyboard, mouse and monitor.



KEY BENEFITS

£900 is a good price to pay for a home PC system. It's enough to ensure you get up-to-date technology that should last for years. At the same time, you're not paying a premium for the very latest and most expensive parts.

WEAK POINTS

Most £900 PCs don't offer much more power than the £650 PCs, which is fine if you want a PC for Windows tasks alone and you won't ever want to play games. If you want a PC to take on intensive tasks, such as video editing, you would be better off with a £1,200 supersystem.

THE DETAILS

Every PC in this group includes an AMD Athlon 64 processor, and all but one has a 3500+ or higher speed rating. These mid-range chips strike a sensible balance between power and price and can storm through almost every 2D task. Most include 1GB of system memory, which is twice our recommended minimum for Windows XP, and 200GB or bigger hard disks.

Most provide ample power for everyday gaming. The best include powerful mid-range graphics cards, and all but one can run the latest games almost twice as fast as most £650 PCs.

This price guarantees the latest technology, such as Socket 939 processors and PCI Express graphics cards. This means you should be able to add more speed without difficulty in future. Most have well-specified motherboards that include plenty of USB2.0 ports and extras such as FireWire and Gigabit Ethernet.

As ever, it's important to consider the warranty included with each PC. Almost all these powerful PCs include at least one year of onsite cover. PC Nextday's warranty is weaker, but Mesh's three-year onsite warranty is superb.

£1,200 PCs

GOOD FOR those who need an extremely powerful PC at a realistic price. These PCs offer the most vivid 3D gaming experience – or incredible video-editing performance – without being crippling expensive.



KEY BENEFITS

All these PCs include powerful processors, 1GB of memory and powerful 3D graphics cards. They can charge through the latest 3D games and have all the power needed for all levels of image editing or video encoding. Most include 19" LCD monitors, and some even have extras such as a TV tuner.

WEAK POINTS

Every one of these PCs includes an expensive 3D graphics card or, in the case of the Watford Aries, two of them. These are worth hundreds of pounds and are a waste of money if you don't play games. In contrast, spending £1,200 doesn't guarantee you a cutting-edge processor. While the Mesh PC has an incredibly powerful dual-core chip, Watford has chosen a processor that would look more at home in the £900 group.

THE DETAILS

You could spend an absolute fortune on a PC if you were determined to buy only the latest technology. The most we would recommend, though, is around £1,200. This kind of sum is enough to get you the very latest features without spending excessive amounts in search of diminishing performance gains.

Most of these PCs include a 19" LCD monitor. These are great for gaming and watching DVDs and are also useful for everyday office work and surfing the web. Almost every PC includes surround-sound speakers, too. These won't suit everyone as setting them up can be a pain, but if you put in the time and effort you can create cinema-style sound.

Finally, any PC at this price should include an onsite warranty. Most, but not all, do.



£650 PCs

**CARRERA**
Octan 6200TC-CS10

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £650 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Watford 08700 270900

DETAILS www.savastore.com

Carrera's Octan 6200TC-CS10 is a decent PC with a nice monitor and an onsite warranty, but it doesn't stand out from the crowd.

FEATURES

Carrera PCs have used the same shiny black case for some years now, but we've always thought that it looks impressively smart. It's also a decent size, with plenty of room for future upgrades.

Inside is an ECS motherboard with all the features we'd expect from a PC at this price. It uses a processor based on the up-to-date Socket 939, so adding a faster processor in future should be no problem. The Sony DVD writer can create double-layer DVD+R discs, and the 160GB hard disk provides plenty of room for media files.

Carrera has included a simple 2.1 set of Creative speakers and a Samsung 17" LCD monitor. This has a slow response time so it isn't ideal for gaming, but it sailed through our image-quality tests. We were impressed to see that a one-year onsite warranty is included.

PERFORMANCE

At the heart of the Octan is an Athlon 64 3200+ processor. This might not be the fastest available, but it's no slouch either. It scored a decent 100 points in our *Shopper* benchmark suite, so it should cope with almost any home computing task. The GeForce 6200 TurboCache graphics card is one of the least powerful PCI Express graphics cards available and ran our Doom 3 test at only 6.2 frames per second (fps). It's not ideal for gaming, but you could easily add a faster graphics card in the future.

VERDICT

The Octan is a decent but unremarkable PC. It's not particularly powerful, but it comes with a quality monitor and an excellent warranty. It uses the latest technologies, so it could last for years with a few judicious upgrades.



Onsite warranty; decent screen



No modem or extras; not particularly fast

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3200+, 512MB RAM, 160GB hard disk, 64MB nVidia GeForce 6200TC graphics, DVD+/-RW DL, 17" LCD

**MESH**
Matrix Eclipse Blast

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £650 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Mesh Computers 08700 464747

DETAILS www.meshcomputers.com

Mesh's Matrix hasn't the fastest processor in this price band, but it uses quality components and comes with a superb warranty. Its graphics card also makes it the best budget PC for gamers.

FEATURES

The Matrix Eclipse Blast comes in a standard-issue Mesh tower case. It's big and a little gaudy, but extremely solid. Inside we were amazed to see an Asus AN8-SLI Deluxe motherboard. This costs over £100 and is a remarkably powerful choice for such an inexpensive PC. It provides many connectors, and gives you the option of upgrading to an SLI gaming system in future.

The other components are similarly well chosen. Two Sony DVD drives are included, one of which can write to both DVD+R and DVD-R two-layer discs. The ViewSonic VE710b monitor is one of the best here, and has a rapid response time that makes it ideal for gaming. A simple set of Creative stereo speakers is also included.

PERFORMANCE

The Athlon 64 3000+ processor is one of the slower processors in this group and produced a slightly slow but still reasonable score of 92 in our *Shopper* benchmarks. When it came to our 3D performance tests, though, the Mesh system excelled. We're always a bit disappointed to see PCs supplied with an ATI graphics card in a motherboard that supports SLI, as you'll have to get rid of it to upgrade to a two-card nVidia SLI system. However, the Radeon X700Pro card produced excellent results. It charged through our Doom3 test at just under 30fps.

VERDICT

Mesh's Matrix Eclipse Blast isn't particularly fast in Windows, but it's a great budget gaming PC. It's also put together from some excellent components, so it could be upgraded for years, and has an onsite warranty. It's superb value.



Great monitor; surprisingly powerful 3D card; onsite warranty



Not particularly fast in Windows

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3000+, 512MB RAM, 200GB hard disk, 128MB ATI X700Pro, DVD+/-RW +/-DL and DVD-ROM, 17" LCD

**NETHIGHSTREET**
Net CS 650

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £650 inc VAT

SUPPLIER NetHighStreet 08700 271339

DETAILS www.nethighstreet.com

NetHighStreet's CS 650 is a powerful computer that's excellent for Windows applications. It's not great for gaming, though, and uses some older technologies that will hamper upgrading.

FEATURES

The CS 650's case isn't very attractive, but it's not ugly either. Inside we were disappointed to see that its Biostar motherboard supports Socket 754 processors and AGP graphics cards. These technologies will make the PC difficult to upgrade in future. The NEC DVD writer is a far better choice, as is the 200GB Maxtor hard disk.

A set of 2.1 Trust speakers is included, along with an Epson CX3600 multifunction peripheral. This earned only two stars in our review in December 2004, but it's still a worthwhile extra if you're buying your first PC. The ViewSonic VG712B LCD monitor looks very smart and produced decent results in our image quality tests, with even greyscale shading and good colour reproduction. It's the only screen in this group that supports a DVI connection.

PERFORMANCE

It appears that NetHighStreet designed this PC for performance rather than upgradability. By using the older Socket 754 type of Athlon 64 processor, it has managed to include the fastest AMD processor in this price range. Combined with 512MB of RAM its Athlon 64 3400+ put in an excellent performance in our *Shopper* benchmarks with a score of 113. Unfortunately, this power does not translate to 3D performance. Even with such a powerful processor the CS 650 is held back by its ageing AGP graphics card and could run our Doom 3 test at only 7.9fps.

VERDICT

The CS 650 is impressively powerful in Windows applications, and comes with an MFP and a good LCD monitor. It's not very upgradable, though, and includes only a basic warranty.



Powerful for Windows applications



Not so fast in 3D; hard to upgrade

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3400+, 512MB RAM, 200GB hard disk, 256MB ATI Radeon 9550, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 17" LCD



PC NEXTDAY Zoostorm 6602

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £650 inc VAT

SUPPLIER sales@pcnextday.co.uk

DETAILS www.pcnextday.co.uk

The Zoostorm 6602 provides a good balance between high performance and useful features. It would benefit from a better warranty, however.

FEATURES

Like most other Zoostorm PCs, the 6602 comes in a large case with a slightly bulbous plastic front. It feels solid enough, but it's one of the more annoying cases to work in as there's no single removable side panel. Inside there's an ECS motherboard with plenty of USB2.0 and FireWire ports, and lots of room for expansion. The Philips DVD writer isn't as good as those supplied by NetHighStreet and Mesh, but it can still write to double-layer DVD+R discs. The 160GB hard disk connects via an old-fashioned ATA ribbon cable, but there are four SATA connectors in case you want to add more disks in future.

PC Nextday has included an HP PSC1215 multifunction peripheral, allowing you to print, copy and scan documents. The AOC 17" LCD monitor looks bland but provides acceptable image quality. The PC has no onsite warranty, but there is a 30-day collect-and-return service in addition to the standard return-to-base warranty.

PERFORMANCE

Inside the 6602 is an AMD Athlon 64 3200+ processor and 512MB of RAM. It put in an impressive performance in our *Shopper* benchmarks, scoring 103. It's also a decent PC for playing games. The nVidia GeForce 6600 is one of the best reasonably priced graphics cards, and the 6602 managed to run our Doom 3 test at a playable 23.1fps. Its Socket 939 processor and PCI Express graphics card mean this system will be easy to upgrade in a year or two.

VERDICT

The Zoostorm 6602 is a powerful PC made from well-selected components. It's a shame that it doesn't include an onsite warranty, though.

✓ Free MFP; FireWire; good performance

✗ Limited warranty

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3200+ processor, 512MB RAM, 160GB hard disk, 128MB nVidia GeForce 6600, DVD+/-RW DL, 17" LCD



SYSTEMAX Venture P4 530

RATING ★

PRICE £650 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Misco 0800 038 8880

DETAILS www.misco.co.uk

Systemax's Venture P4 530 is the only PC in this price range to use an Intel processor. It's fairly fast in Windows, but there's no other reason to recommend it.

FEATURES

The Venture comes in an unremarkable grey case. It uses the latest Socket 775 variety of Intel Pentium 4 processor, but its motherboard supports the older AGP standard for graphics cards. It's one of only two PCs in this price range without a Gigabit Ethernet adaptor. Its Sony DVD drive can write to most types of disc, including double-layer DVD+R, but it doesn't support dual-layer DVD-R. We were appalled to see that the hard disk has a capacity of just 80GB; for this price we expect at least twice as much space.

An Epson Stylus C66 printer is included. Unfortunately this is one of the worst budget inkjet printers we've tested. The 17" Philips LCD monitor is better, but has narrow viewing angles. It had a slight red colour cast when we first switched it on, but we were able to correct this using its onscreen menus.

PERFORMANCE

Pentium 4 processors usually storm through the encoding tasks in our *Shopper* benchmarks, and the Venture proved no exception, scoring an impressive 103 overall. Unfortunately its 3D performance is abysmal. The Venture is the only PC in this test to have no dedicated graphics card, and instead relies on a graphics chip integrated on its motherboard. It's totally incapable of playing any recent games, and failed to run any of our 3D tests successfully.

VERDICT

There's little to like about the Venture P4 530. It's fast at video-encoding tasks, but this is of little use without FireWire ports and a large hard disk. It's useless for gaming, and won't be particularly easy to upgrade in future. One to avoid.

✓ Pentium processor makes short work of video encoding

✗ Terrible 3D performance; small hard disk; AGP slot

SPECIFICATIONS Intel Pentium 4 530 processor (3GHz), 512MB RAM, 80GB hard disk, VIA integrated graphics, DVD+/-RW DL, 17" LCD



WATFORD Aries Performa 5565

RATING ★★

PRICE £650 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Watford 08700 270900

DETAILS www.savastore.com

Watford's Aries Performa 5565 isn't particularly powerful, but it does include an onsite warranty.

FEATURES

We've never liked the grey, plasticky cases that Watford uses for most of its Aries PCs. For this reason we rate the Performa 5565 as the ugliest PC in this test. It's the only one to use a smaller microATX motherboard and a processor from AMD's budget Sempron range.

The 5565 has a decent 200GB hard disk and an LG DVD writer that can create double-layer DVD+R discs. Unfortunately its case is cramped, and there's not much room to add new components. We were especially unimpressed to see only one PCI slot, which is already filled with a 56K modem. This will make adding upgrades such as a TV tuner or sound card tricky. A set of 2.1 Creative speakers is included, as well as the same Samsung 710V 17" LCD monitor bundled with Carrera's Octan 6200TC-CS10. It provides good image quality, but isn't good for gaming.

PERFORMANCE

The Performa uses an AMD Sempron 3000+ processor, which connects to the motherboard using the older Socket 754 connector. The downside of Socket 754 is that it limits future processor upgrades. The Sempron 3000+ isn't very powerful, either, and the Performa scored just 63 overall in our *Shopper* benchmarks. Its performance in our 3D tests was better. The PCI Express Radeon X700 graphics card provides enough 3D power to run the latest games at lower resolutions and detail levels and it ran our Doom 3 test at 18.1fps.

VERDICT

The Performa 5565's processor, case and motherboard greatly limit its upgradability, and it's not particularly fast in the first place. Every other PC in this price bracket bar the Systemax is better value for money.

✓ Onsite warranty

✗ Slow processor; hard to upgrade

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Sempron 3000+, 512MB RAM, 200GB hard disk, 256MB ATI Radeon X700, DVD+/-RW DL, 17" LCD



£900 PCs

**CARRERA**
Ultimate 64 3800-CS10

RATING ★★☆☆

PRICE £900 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Watford Electronics 08700 270900

DETAILS www.savastore.com

Carrera's PC runs Windows applications faster than some £1,200 systems, but you can buy a better gaming PC for just £650.

FEATURES

This system uses the same 17" Sony LCD as Watford's Aries Performa 7212. It produces a pin-sharp image through its DVI connector, with vibrant colours and a smooth greyscale transition. Unfortunately it couldn't produce a pure black unless we reduced the brightness level to a point where the colours suffer.

Carrera has included a Creative 5.1 surround-sound speaker set. Although these make for a more atmospheric experience when gaming or watching films, we'd prefer a higher-quality stereo set. The 200GB hard disk is adequate at this price, and you can easily archive files using the two-layer DVD writer.

PERFORMANCE

Carrera has clearly designed the Ultimate 64 3800-CS10 for power in Windows applications. An AMD Athlon 64 3800+ processor, together with 1GB of RAM, makes it easily the fastest PC in this price band. It scored 117 in the *Shopper* application benchmarks, placing it higher than half the £1,200 computers.

However, this power comes at a price. Carrera has used a cheaper 256MB ATI Radeon X700 graphics card, which makes it slower than any other PC at this price when playing games. It ran our Doom 3 test at just 22.3fps. It will run the latest games, but you'll need to use a lower resolution or sacrifice image quality.

VERDICT

If you never play games and want a powerful PC, the Ultimate 64 will fit the bill. It performs brilliantly in Windows applications and has a decent LCD screen. If you plan to play games, though, you should look elsewhere.

✓ Powerful in Windows applications

✗ Struggles to keep up with 3D games; only one optical drive

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3800+ processor, 1GB RAM, 200GB hard disk, 256MB ATI Radeon X700 graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 17" LCD

**CCL**
NF30-AL9 Home

RATING ★★☆☆

PRICE £899 inc VAT

SUPPLIER CCL Computers 01274 471201

DETAILS www.cclonline.com

CCL's NF30-AL9 Home is great for gaming, but its processor struggled in our video-editing test.

FEATURES

CCL has included a 19" Belinea display with the NF30-AL9. Its response time of 16ms is just quick enough to display fast-moving graphics without blur. Although it's not as bright and vibrant as other displays in this price range, it renders greyscales and subtle colours well. It also has integrated stereo speakers, though we'd recommend you use the punchy Logitech X-230 2.1 set if you have enough room. We prefer this kind of decent stereo set to most surround-sound speakers, which are a pain to set up.

This is one of only two PCs in this price band to come with a TV tuner. The AVerMedia tuner can decode Freeview channels and, as it connects to the PC via USB, it's easy to move between computers. The 200GB hard disk provides enough storage for a while and the double-layer DVD writer is excellent for creating backups.

PERFORMANCE

CCL has used a cheaper processor and spent the savings on an expensive graphics card. The AMD Athlon 64 3000+ processor is competent but underpowered in this group. Its score of 87 in our *Shopper* benchmarks is low.

While it lags behind in everyday tasks, the NF30-AL9 excels in 3D games. Its nVidia GeForce 6800 graphics card with 256MB of video memory is the fastest in this price bracket, and it ran our Doom 3 test at 47.5fps.

VERDICT

The NF30-AL9 Home has a modest processor but comes with a good choice of peripherals. Its 19" display, powerful graphics card and punchy speakers make it a decent entertainment PC, but if you want to perform intensive tasks such as video editing you'll need something faster.

✓ Excellent 3D performance; big screen

✗ Relatively slow processor; only one optical drive

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3000+ processor, 1GB RAM, 200GB hard disk, 256MB nVidia GeForce 6800 graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 19" LCD

**EVESHAM**
Axis 64 MKR

RATING ★★☆☆

PRICE £900 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Evesham 08701 609500

DETAILS www.evesham.com

Evesham's Axis 64 MKR is a well-built PC with a good processor, graphics card and warranty. Unfortunately, it lacks memory.

FEATURES

Evesham has concentrated its money on the essential components of the Axis 64 MKR, so its peripherals are basic. The ViewSonic VX715 17" LCD is decent but unexceptional. It's bright and clean, and produces even greyscales. Colours tend toward the over-vibrant, but in most circumstances this looks fine.

Creative's Inspire P5800 5.1 surround-sound speakers produce decent results but setting them up involves creating a web of wires. A 250GB hard disk is fitted, providing ample space for all your music, games and video files. Should you run short, though, a two-layer DVD writer is included as well as a DVD-ROM drive. The lack of a floppy disk drive, memory card reader or modern smacks of penny pinching, but a two-year onsite warranty is included.

PERFORMANCE

The Axis 64 MKR is one of four PCs in this group to use an AMD Athlon 64 3500+ processor, but it's the only one with just 512MB of memory. This renders it the second slowest PC at this price, and its score of 101 in the *Shopper* benchmarks places it below several £650 PCs.

Evesham has included a relatively fast graphics card, however. Its 256MB ATI Radeon X800 isn't the latest technology, but it's still very capable in 3D games. The system ran our Doom 3 test at 41.5fps and scored well in 3DMark03.

VERDICT

Evesham's PC combines a powerful processor with a good Radeon X800 graphics card, but further down the specifications there are signs of cost cutting. In particular, it needs more memory to compete at this price.

✓ An intelligent blend of 2D and 3D power

✗ Short on memory; evidence of penny pinching

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3500+ processor, 512MB RAM, 250GB hard disk, 256MB ATI Radeon X800 graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, DVD-ROM, 17" LCD



MESH Matrix Titan MAX

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £900 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Mesh Computers 08700 464747

DETAILS www.meshcomputers.com

Mesh has used high-quality components for the Matrix Titan MAX, and it's the only £900 system to be covered by a three-year onsite warranty.

FEATURES

Although some PCs in this price group include 19" LCDs, the 17" ViewSonic used by Mesh is our favourite. The VP717B has a lightning-quick response time of 8ms, all but eliminating motion blur. It produces natural colours, subtle hues and even greyscale levels from black to white. You can also rotate the screen to portrait mode.

We generally advocate a good set of stereo speakers, but the Creative Inspire T7900 7.1 surround-sound system here is impressive. It requires lots of cables to link all eight speakers, but gamers will find the effort worthwhile. A 250GB hard disk is included, alongside a two-layer DVD writer and a DVD-ROM drive.

PERFORMANCE

Mesh has built the Titan MAX around the same Athlon 64 3500+ processor used by Evesham, but has included 1GB of RAM. It scored 106 overall in the *Shopper* benchmark suite, putting it in the middle of the £900 price group.

It's no thoroughbred gaming system, but with a 256MB nVidia GeForce 6800LE graphics card inside, the Titan MAX can hold its own in 3D games. It ran our demanding Doom 3 benchmark at an impressive 46.2fps. Better still, Mesh has used an Asus A8N SLI Deluxe motherboard that allows you to add a second 6800LE card in future and greatly boost the 3D performance. This makes it a perfect PC for those who love 3D games.

VERDICT

Mesh hasn't included many extras with the Matrix Titan MAX, but it has focused attention and money on the parts that matter. If you want to play games, this is the £900 PC to pick.



Balanced 2D and 3D performance; great screen; easy SLI upgrade



No added extras

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3500+ processor, 1GB RAM, 250GB hard disk, 256MB nVidia GeForce 6800LE graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, DVD-ROM, 17" LCD



PC NEXTDAY Zoostorm 6607

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £900 inc VAT

SUPPLIER sales@pcnextday.co.uk

DETAILS www.pcnextday.co.uk

PC Nextday's Zoostorm 6607 is a well-balanced PC with a clever TV tuner and a 19" LCD screen.

FEATURES

If you want to watch TV on your PC, the Zoostorm 6607 is a good choice. It includes a TwinHan TV card that can receive both Freeview and standard analogue TV signals. The 250GB hard disk provides plenty of room to store programmes, but you could also archive them using the double-layer DVD writer. A wireless network adaptor is also included.

Although 19" LCD screens don't offer any more detail than 17" models, the bigger picture can be much more attractive. The 19" AOC screen is not the brightest or most cleanly lit screen here, but it's fine for watching DVDs, playing games and surfing the web. Annoyingly, no onsite warranty is included with the PC.

PERFORMANCE

The Zoostorm 6607 uses the same AMD Athlon 64 3500+ processor as the Evesham, Mesh and Watford PCs in this price range. It can cope with everyday tasks without breaking a sweat and has no trouble with more intensive tasks, as shown by its score of 106 in the *Shopper* benchmarks.

PC Nextday has included an nVidia GeForce 6600GT graphics card. This is fairly fast, scoring 42.4fps in our Doom 3 test. The Zoostorm has a standard non-SLI motherboard, though, so it can't be upgraded in the same way as Mesh's PC.

VERDICT

The Zoostorm 6607 is a well thought-out PC system with decent core components and a few star features. It has plenty of power for today's applications and games, and its 19" monitor and TV card make it ideal for entertainment. Gamers or those who want a comprehensive warranty should choose the Mesh Matrix Titan MAX, but this is the best general-purpose PC for £900.



TV tuner, WiFi and 19" display



No modem

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3500+ processor, 1GB RAM, 250GB hard disk, 128MB nVidia GeForce 6600GT graphics, DVD+/-RW DL, DVD-ROM, 19" LCD



WATFORD Aries Performa 7212

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £900 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Watford Electronics 08700 270900

DETAILS www.savastore.com

Watford's Aries Performa 7212 comes with a useful multifunction device and an impressive DVD writer, but there's no DVD-ROM drive.

FEATURES

Watford's Aries Performa 7212 is housed in a fairly ugly case, but internally it's spacious with handy locking drive bays.

First-time buyers will value the Canon PIXMA MP110 multifunction peripheral (MFP), which won a Best Budget Buy award in our Labs test in *Shopper* June 2005. It's a little expensive to run, but produces good-quality prints.

Watford has included a Sony 17" LCD screen. It's sharp and bright, but struggles to find a solid black unless you turn the brightness down. The Creative SBS 560 5.1 surround-sound speakers provide acceptable sound quality.

PERFORMANCE

The Performa scored an impressive 119 in our *Shopper* benchmarks. This score is largely due to an impressive performance in the audio test. The excellent LG DVD writer is extremely fast at ripping music to MP3 and is also the only burner in this group that writes DVD-RAM discs.

Alongside an AMD Athlon 64 3500+ processor and 1GB of RAM, Watford has chosen an nVidia GeForce 6600GT graphics card. This is perfectly capable of playing the latest 3D games and ran our Doom 3 test at 42.4fps. Unlike the Mesh PC, though, it can't be easily upgraded to a two-card SLI system.

VERDICT

Watford's Aries Performa 7212 is a great PC for first-time buyers. It provides plenty of power in both 2D applications and games, and many will find the MFP handy. Both the Mesh and PC Nextday PCs include two optical drives though, which, alongside other stand-out features, make them slightly better value than the Watford.



Great DVD drive and multifunction peripheral



Only one optical drive

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3500+ processor, 1GB RAM, 200GB hard disk, 128MB nVidia GeForce 6600GT graphics, DVD+/-RW +DL, 17" LCD



£1,200 PCs



DEMONITE X8 PCI

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £1,200 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Demonite 08712 223456

DETAILS www.demonite.com

The X8 PCI has similar components to other PCs in the group, but its unusual case helps it stand out. Sadly, its performance is more mundane.

FEATURES

Demonite's case is a world away from the traditional grey-box PC design. It's a monster, both in its menacing appearance and its size. Unfortunately, it's made of rather flexible plastic. Some will love it, but for many the case alone will be reason enough to avoid this PC.

If the case is questionable, though, the same cannot be said of the monitor. The Samsung 19" 913N is the best screen in this group. It produces a clean white image, smooth greyscale transitions and bright vibrant colours. Its 8ms response time makes it ideal for all applications, including gaming and watching DVDs.

A Logitech cordless mouse and keyboard set is included, but serious gamers might prefer the traditional cabled variety instead. The Creative T6700 6.1 surround-sound speaker set is good for gaming, and you can test it out with the bundled copy of Splinter Cell: Chaos Theory. We were slightly disappointed that only a single optical disc drive is included, but it's a decent Sony model that can create two-layer discs.

PERFORMANCE

Demonite's Athlon 64 3800+ is a reasonably powerful processor for a PC of this price. The X8 scored an average 117 in the *Shopper* benchmarks, but performed better in our 3D tests. The ATI X850XT card raced to 74.4fps in our standard Doom 3 test and managed a smooth 52.9fps with the settings increased to Ultra detail at 1,280x1,024 resolution.

VERDICT

The Demonite is a decent PC system with an excellent monitor. Unfortunately, its performance is less striking than its case design. You can buy a more powerful PC for this price.

✓ Excellent LCD screen

✗ No DVD-ROM drive or FireWire ports

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3800+ processor, 1GB RAM, 250GB hard disk, 256MB ATI Radeon X850XT graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 19" LCD



EVESHAM Axis 64 GTR

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £1,200 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Evesham 08701 609500

DETAILS www.evesham.com

Evesham's Axis 64 GTR storms through 3D games and has a great warranty, but in 2D tasks it is little faster than the average £900 PC.

FEATURES

Although we tired of the design some time ago, the high build quality of Evesham's case is in no doubt. The Axis 64 GTR is built around a high-end motherboard with all the ports and slots you could ever need. The cabling inside is neat and the entire system feels well built.

The 19" ViewSonic VX912 monitor included is fairly good. Its 8ms response time makes it ideal for gaming, and it produces a clean, bright white with no backlighting problems. It stumbled a little in our greyscale test, making some greys lighter or darker than they should be, and minor artefacts were visible in our colour wheel test.

The other peripherals comprise a decent set of Creative 5.1 surround-sound speakers and a comfortable Microsoft keyboard and mouse. Two DVD drives are included, as well as a 250GB hard disk. Evesham's warranty is one of the best and includes two years of onsite cover.

PERFORMANCE

The Athlon 64 3700+ processor included here is one of the slowest in this price group, which is reflected by the Axis 64's disappointing score of 111 in the *Shopper* benchmarks.

3D performance is a different story. Like Demonite, Evesham has included an ATI Radeon X850XT graphics card. This top-of-the-range card produced 77.7fps in our Doom 3 test and even ran at 55.5fps when we increased the settings to Ultra detail at 1,280x1,024. It will storm through the latest games for some time to come.

VERDICT

The Axis 64 GTR is a powerful gaming PC with an excellent warranty. If games are your passion, it's a great choice, but for creative tasks – video-editing in particular – the Mesh is a far better PC.

✓ Powerful 3D graphics

✗ Average Windows performance

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3700+ processor, 1GB RAM, 250GB hard disk, 256MB ATI Radeon X850XT graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, DVD-ROM, 19" LCD



MESH Matrix Titan DVX

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £1,200 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Mesh Computers 08700 464747

DETAILS www.meshcomputers.com

Mesh's PC is built around one of the fastest processors we've seen, and its performance in tasks that use its twin cores is sensational.

FEATURES

Mesh's black and silver chassis contains a high-quality Asus motherboard and a dual-core Athlon 64 X2 4400+ processor. This allows you to run two applications simultaneously at high speed and will provide even greater speed once multithreaded applications (such as our video-editing benchmark) become more common.

The ViewSonic VX912 monitor is identical to the one Evesham supplies with its Axis 64 GTR. It's not perfect as some minor problems were evident in two of our quality tests, but it's OK for everyday use. A set of Creative 7.1 surround-sound speakers is included, which sound good as long as you have room to set them up. The 250GB hard disk provides plenty of room for multimedia files, and the two optical drives make copying from one DVD to another easy. Mesh has also included a digital TV card and a very generous three-year onsite warranty.

PERFORMANCE

The Matrix Titan DVX scored a phenomenal 156 in our *Shopper* benchmark suite, over 30 points more than its nearest rival. It will charge through Windows tasks that bring both cores into action.

Mesh has sacrificed some 3D performance to achieve this 2D speed, but the Titan is still a very capable gaming PC. It ran our Doom 3 test at 63.8fps and managed 42.0fps with the settings increased to Ultra detail at 1,280x1,024. It's significantly faster than any of the £900 PCs and can play all the latest games with ease.

VERDICT

This is an excellent PC. It's incredibly powerful in Windows, very capable when playing 3D games and has an excellent warranty. Unless 3D gaming is your only priority, this is the one to buy.

✓ Awesome dual-core performance; great onsite warranty

✗ Uninspiring 3D performance

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 X2 4400+ processor, 1GB RAM, 250GB hard disk, 256MB ATI Radeon X800XL graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, DVD-ROM, 19" LCD



NETHIGHSTREET NET CS 1200

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £1,200 inc VAT

SUPPLIER NetHighStreet 08700 271339

DETAILS www.nethighstreet.com

The NET CS 1200 has a fast processor and uses high-quality components, but its warranty is basic and there are a few minor omissions.

FEATURES

NetHighStreet's case is unremarkable and inoffensive, but the motherboard inside is decidedly unimpressive. At this price we expect to see FireWire ports and digital audio outputs, both of which are absent.

The Samsung 913V 19" monitor is more than satisfactory but not as good as the 913N supplied by Demonite. Our white image test showed a slight blue tinge that could be removed only by sacrificing some colour depth. It displayed our greyscale and colour wheel tests satisfactorily with only minor aberrations.

NetHighStreet supplies a single DVD drive, but it's a good NEC model that can write both kinds of two-layer disc. The 250GB hard disk provides more storage than most users will need.

A set of Creative surround-sound speakers is provided, along with a Microsoft keyboard, a tilting scroll wheel mouse and an Asus webcam. The warranty is poor, though. We always prefer to see at least one year of onsite cover.

PERFORMANCE

NetHighStreet has used the second-fastest processor here, and it produced the second-fastest result in our 2D benchmarks. Its score of 122 is great, if overshadowed by Mesh's 156.

The system performed similarly well in our 3D tests. Its nVidia GeForce 6800GT isn't the fastest but it charges through the latest games. It ran our Doom 3 test at 71.4fps and produced a smooth 48.5fps with increased quality settings.

VERDICT

The NET CS 1200 is fundamentally a good PC. It's certainly fast enough, but it misses out on full marks because of its limited warranty and a few omitted features.

✓ Above-average performance

✗ Limited warranty; no FireWire or DVD-ROM

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 4000+ processor, 1GB RAM, 250GB hard disk, 256MB nVidia 6800GT graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 19" LCD



PC NEXTDAY Zoostorm 6603

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £1,200 inc VAT

SUPPLIER sales@pcnextday.co.uk

DETAILS www.pcnextday.co.uk

PC Nextday's Zoostorm 6603 comes with plenty of extras. Unfortunately its screen is below the standard we expect at this price.

FEATURES

PC Nextday has bundled this PC with the same 19" AOC monitor it used for its £900 PC system. It had difficulty producing a completely clear white image and was disappointing in our colour wheel test. At this price we expect a better screen. An HP PSC 1215 MFP is included, enabling you to print, copy and scan documents. This is one of the cheaper MFPs available, but it could be handy if you're buying your first PC.

Inside the case is a TwinHan TV card that can receive both Freeview and analogue TV broadcasts. We reviewed it in *What's New, Shopper* September 2005 and awarded it four stars, so it's a worthwhile extra. The 400GB hard disk provides plenty of room to store recorded TV programmes as well as games, documents and multimedia files. Disappointingly, no onsite warranty is included.

PERFORMANCE

The 6603 has an Athlon 64 3800+ processor, which is of middling power in this price group. It scored 112 in our *Shopper* benchmarks. This is slower than some of the cheaper PCs.

PC Nextday has chosen an nVidia GeForce 6800GT graphics card for the Zoostorm. It's not the latest or greatest technology, but it's easily fast enough to rush through today's 3D games. It ran our Doom 3 test at 71.8fps and managed a slick 48.5fps with the quality settings and resolution increased.

VERDICT

The Zoostorm is an average performer in this price band, but it's still acceptably fast in both 2D and 3D tasks. The printer and TV card will be useful for some, but the monitor is a disappointment.

✓ Includes a TV card and printer/scanner; huge hard disk

✗ Average performance; mediocre screen

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3800+ processor, 1GB RAM, 400GB hard disk, 256MB nVidia GeForce 6800GT graphics, DVD+/-RW DL, DVD-ROM, 19" LCD



WATFORD PowerXS 6202GT SLi

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £1,200 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Watford 08700 270900

DETAILS www.savastore.com

Watford's PowerXS is designed for 3D speed and produces amazing results. However, a single GeForce 7800 graphics card would have been a more forward-thinking choice.

FEATURES

The PowerXS is built into a durable Cooler Master case fronted by a pair of silver columns. Inside is a top-end Asus motherboard and two GeForce 6800GT graphics cards.

To pay for this, Watford has made sacrifices elsewhere. This is the only PC in this band with a 17" monitor, and it isn't a particularly good one. The screen lacks contrast and couldn't generate either a clean white or dark black screen.

The wired keyboard and mouse are ideal for gamers. The 160GB hard disk is small at this price, and the 5.1 surround-sound speakers come from Creative's budget range. We expect a higher quality set at this price.

PERFORMANCE

The PowerXS has a relatively slow processor and performed poorly in our video-encoding and image-manipulation benchmarks. Its score in our audio-encoding test was terrific, though, and this skewed its overall rating to 121. For most tasks it is less powerful than this result suggests.

Its 3D performance is much better, running our Doom 3 test at an incredible 98.6fps. This is impressive, but its 3D setup isn't one we'd recommend. One of nVidia's newer GeForce 7800GTX cards would have provided a similar level of speed for less money and would have enabled an upgrade to an even faster SLi setup. This system is powerful but less future-proof.

VERDICT

The PowerXS is not a good buy. Most users will want a PC where less money has been spent on gaming performance, while games enthusiasts should look for a PC that uses the latest 7800GTX graphics processor instead.

✓ Excellent 3D performance

✗ Small disk; poor screen; curious choice of graphics hardware

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3500+ processor, 1GB RAM, 160GB hard disk, 2x 256MB nVidia GeForce 6800GT graphics, DVD+/-RW DL, 17" LCD



BENCHMARKS

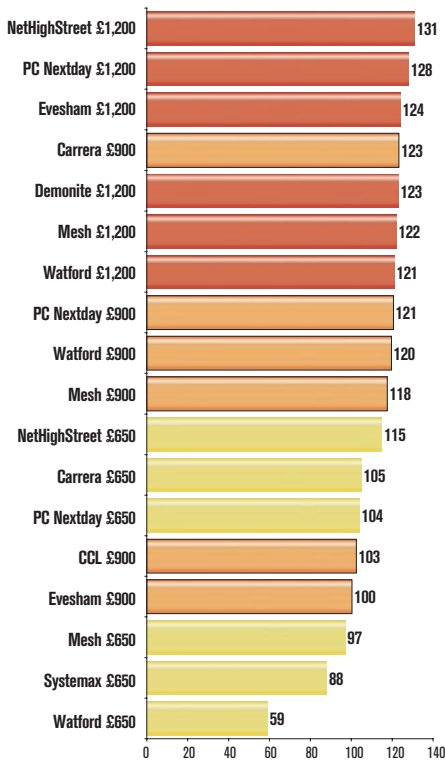
£650 PCs

£900 PCs

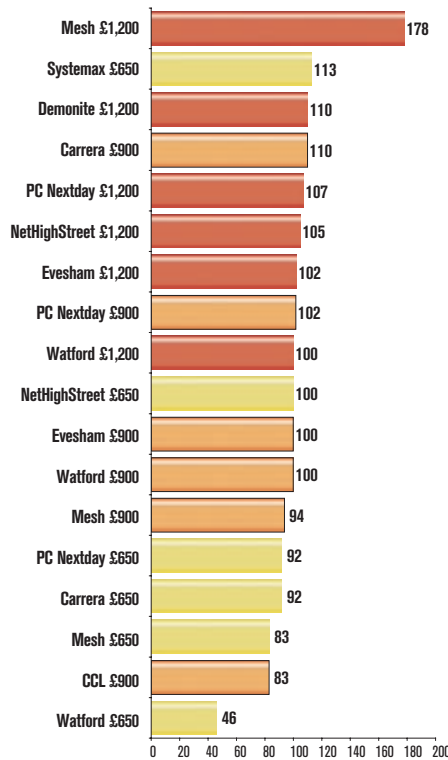
£1,200 PCs

2D Performance **Shopper application tests**

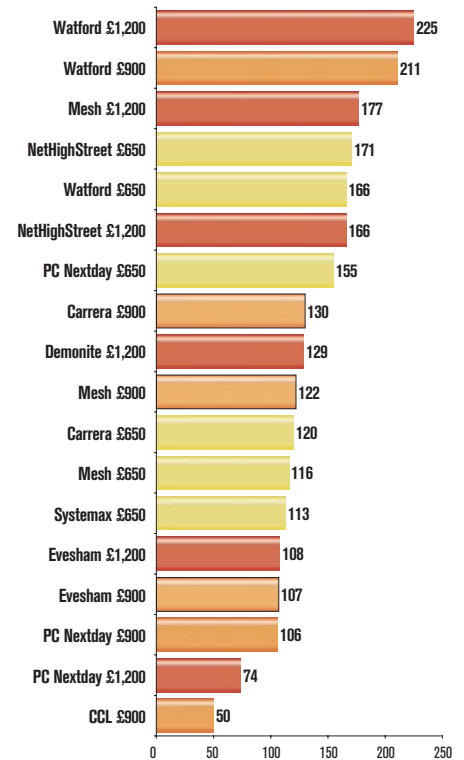
Image-Editing Test



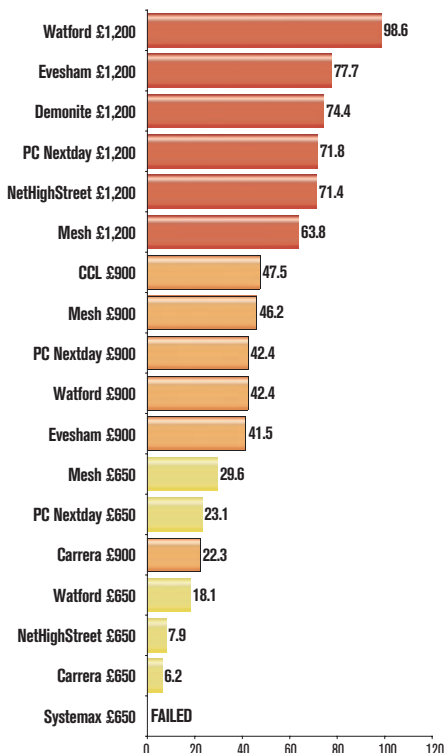
Video-Encoding Test



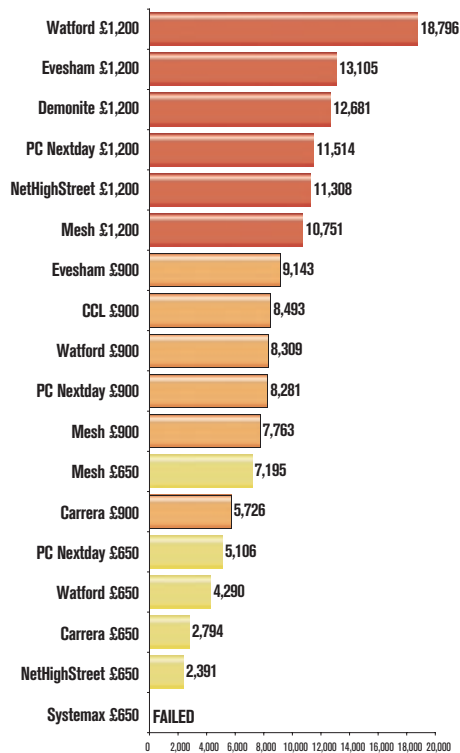
Audio CD-Ripping Test

3D Performance **Doom 3/3DMark03**

Doom 3 (fps)



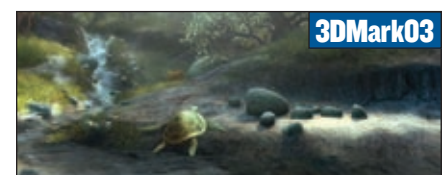
3DMark03



DOOM 3

SETTINGS 1,024x768 resolution, high quality,
4x AA WEB www.doom3.com

We run a timed demo in Doom 3 to test whether a PC has the power needed to play cutting-edge 3D games with ease. A good score here means that it should cope with any graphically intense 3D game.



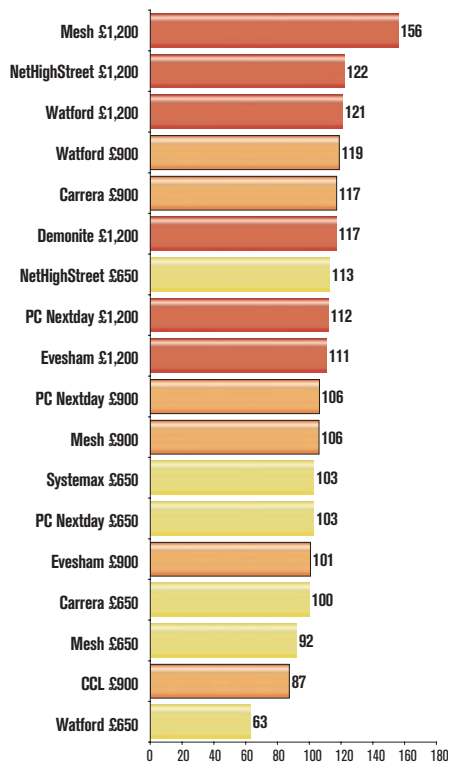
3DMark03

SETTINGS 1,024x768 resolution, 32-bit colour,
default settings WEB www.futuremark.com

3DMark03 is Futuremark's 3D benchmark. It comprises four game tests from four different genres. The workload is representative of games coming on to the market now.



Overall



SETTINGS We run our application tests at 1,024x768 resolution and in 32-bit colour
WEB www.computershopper.co.uk

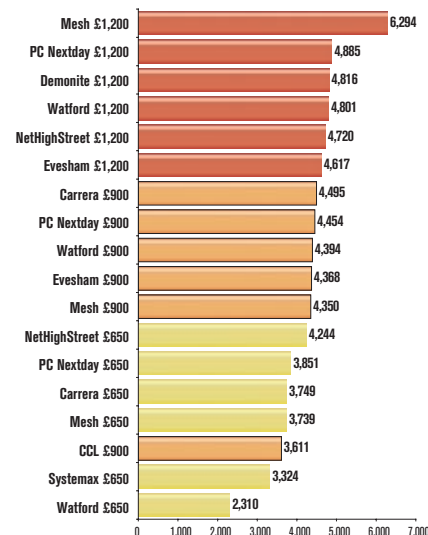
Computer Shopper's 2D benchmarks are designed to show how PCs stand up to the toughest tasks Windows can throw at them. Today's PCs have no problem running office applications such as Word and Excel, so we chose to focus our tests on areas where you could experience difficulties.

Our image-editing test simulates a session of photo enhancement using Paint Shop Pro, culminating with the memory-intensive composition of a panorama from a set of digital snaps. Encoding a short video to MPEG-2 format is an extremely processor-intensive task, and one that anyone interested in transferring home videos to DVD will have to tackle. Finally, a set of MP3s is generated by ripping an audio CD.

We compiled the tests with the help of our sister magazine for performance computing, *Custom PC*. Figures are relative to a reference Evesham Athlon 64 3500+ system, which scores 100 in all tests.

PCMark04

PCMark04



SETTINGS 1,024x768 resolution, 32-bit colour, default settings
WEB www.futuremark.com

As well as our own benchmarks we test all desktop and notebook PCs using Futuremark's PCMark04. You can download a free version from the web.

LABS VERDICT PC PRICE TEST 2005

We were impressed by most of the PCs in all three categories of our PC Price Test. Although a few disappointed, most showed that however much you want to spend, desktop PC systems are better value than ever.

In the £650 price group three PCs were particularly impressive. NetHighStreet's Net CS 650 outperformed several of the more expensive PCs in our *Shopper* benchmarks, but it isn't much good for gaming. PC Nextday's Zoostorm 6602 provided a good balance between speed and features, but its warranty isn't as good as we'd like. Mesh's Matrix Eclipse Blast is built from

excellent parts and proves that gamers can get their kicks on a budget. With an excellent screen and onsite warranty, it wins our Best Budget Buy.

The £900 price group was hotly contested, with very small performance differences separating most of the entries. In the end, Mesh and PC Nextday came out ahead of the rest. Mesh's Titan Max has a good screen, plenty of power and can easily be upgraded to an SLI gaming system. PC Nextday's Zoostorm 6607 provides similar performance but adds a 19" LCD screen, wireless networking and a TV tuner. Gamers or those who want an onsite warranty should choose the Mesh,

but the Zoostorm is the better all-round PC package. It wins our Best Buy award.

In the £1,200 category Mesh's Titan DVX towered over its rivals. Its score of 156 in the *Shopper* tests is streets ahead of its nearest competitor, because its dual-core processor steamrolled through our tough video-encoding task. Its 3D performance is less remarkable, but a score of 63.8fps in our Doom 3 test shows that it can run the latest games in glorious detail. With a 19" LCD monitor, high-quality surround-sound speakers and a three-year onsite warranty, it's excellent value. It wins our Best Buy award.

£650 PC

MESH
Matrix Eclipse
Blast

£900 PC

PC NEXTDAY
Zoostorm 6607

£1,200 PC

MESH
Titan DVX



£650 PCs



MANUFACTURER	CARRERA	MESH	NETHIGHSTREET	PC NEXTDAY	SYSTEMAX	WATFORD
Model name	Octan 6200TC-CS10	Matrix Eclipse Blast	Net CS 650	Zoostorm 6602	Venture P4 530	Aries Performa 5565
Rating	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★	★★
Processor	AMD Athlon 64 3200+	AMD Athlon 64 3000+	AMD Athlon 64 3400+	AMD Athlon 64 3200+	Intel Pentium 4 530	AMD Sempron 3000+
Processor speed	2.01GHz	1.81GHz	2.41GHz	2.01GHz	3.0GHz	1.81GHz
Processor socket	Socket 939	Socket 939	Socket 754	Socket 939	Socket 775	Socket 754
Level 1 cache	128KB	128KB	128KB	128KB	16KB	128KB
Level 2 cache	512KB	512KB	512KB	512KB	1MB	512KB
Memory installed	512MB	512MB	512MB	512MB	512MB	512MB
Memory type	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200
Maximum memory	4GB	2GB	2GB	4GB	2GB	2GB
Motherboard	ECS nForce4-A939	Asus A8N-SLI Deluxe	Biostar NF325-A7-A01	ECS nForce4-A939	Biostar P4M80-M7	Tul A480M7-V
Motherboard chipset	nVidia nForce 4	nVidia nForce 4 SLI	nVidia nForce 3	nVidia nForce 4	VIA P4M800	ATI Xpress 200
Memory bus speed	200MHz	200MHz	200MHz	200MHz	200MHz	200MHz
BIOS type	Award	Award	Award	Award	Award	AMI
PORTS						
USB2.0 ports (front/rear)	2/4	2/6	2/4	3/4	2/4	2/4
FireWire ports (front/rear)	0/0	0/2	0/0	0/3	0/0	0/0
Networking	10/100/1,000 Ethernet	2x 10/100/1,000 Ethernet	10/100 Ethernet	10/100/1,000 Ethernet	10/100 Ethernet	10/100 Ethernet
Legacy ports	Parallel, serial, 2x PS/2	Parallel, 2x PS/2	Parallel, serial, 2x PS/2	Parallel, serial, 2x PS/2	Parallel, serial, 2x PS/2	Parallel, 2x PS/2
INTERNAL EXPANSION						
Case	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Mini tower	Mini tower
Case size (HxWxD)	440x200x460mm	480x200x460mm	430x180x470mm	430x210x460mm	370x180x420mm	370x190x420mm
PCI (free)	3 (3)	3 (2)	5 (5)	3 (1)	3 (2)	1 (0)
PCI-E x1 (free)	2 (2)	2 (2)	0 (0)	2 (2)	0 (0)	2 (2)
PCI-E x16 (free)	1 (0)	2 (1)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
AGP (free)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)
Serial ATA (free)	4 (3)	8 (7)	2 (1)	4 (4)	2 (2)	4 (4)
Memory (free)	4 (2)	4 (2)	2 (1)	4 (2)	2 (1)	2 (1)
Drive bays 3½" (free)	7 (5)	4 (2)	6 (4)	4 (1)	3 (1)	4 (2)
Drive bays 5¼" (free)	4 (3)	3 (1)	4 (3)	3 (2)	2 (1)	2 (1)
HARD DISK						
Model	Hitachi Deskstar 7K250 (HDS722516VLSA80)	Maxtor DiamondMax 10 (6B200M0)	Maxtor DiamondMax 10 (6L200M0)	Hitachi Deskstar T7K250 (HDT722516DLAT80)	Western Digital Caviar (WD800BB)	Seagate Barracuda 7200.7 (ST3200822A)
Interface	SATA	SATA	SATA	ATA	ATA	ATA
Capacity (formatted)	164GB (149GB)	200GB (189GB)	200GB (189GB)	160GB (153GB)	80GB (76.7GB)	200GB (186GB)
Spin speed	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm
GRAPHICS						
Technology	PCI Express	PCI Express	AGP	PCI Express	Integrated	PCI Express
Graphics card	MSI NX6200TC-TD64E	Connect3D 3017	ATI Radeon 9550	Inno3d I-6600-F3F3S	N/A	Powercolor Bravo x700 256MB
Graphics chipset	GeForce 6200 TurboCache	ATI Radeon X700Pro	ATI Radeon 9550	nVidia GeForce 6600	VIA PM800	ATI Radeon X700
Graphics memory	64MB	128MB	256MB	128MB	32MB shared	256MB
Graphics/video ports	D-sub, DVI, S-video out	D-sub, DVI, S-video out, composite out	D-sub, DVI, S-video out	D-sub, DVI, S-video out	D-sub	2x DVI, S-video out
SOUND						
Sound card	Realtek ALC655	Realtek ALC850	Realtek ALC655	Realtek ALC655	Realtek ALC655	Realtek ALC850
Sound card outputs	5.1 line out	7.1 line out, optical and coaxial S/PDIF out	5.1 line out	5.1 line out	5.1 line out	7.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF in/out
Speakers	Creative SBS350 (2.1)	Creative SBS260 (2.1)	Trust SP-3300M (2.1)	Zoostorm 2.1	None	Creative SBS350 (2.1)
REMOVABLE DRIVES						
Floppy drive 3½"	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Memory card reader	N/A	External, supports CompactFlash, MicroDrive, Smart Media, Memory Stick, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card	CompactFlash, MicroDrive, Smart Media, Memory Stick, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card	CompactFlash, MicroDrive, Smart Media, Memory Stick, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card	N/A	CompactFlash, MicroDrive, Smart Media, Memory Stick, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card
Optical drive	Sony DW-D26A (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 4X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 4X DVD+R DL, 4X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM)	Sony DW-Q28A (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 4X DVD+R DL, 4X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM), Sony DDU1615 (16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM)	NEC ND-3540A (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 8X DVD+R DL, 6X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 32X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM)	Philips PBDV1640P (16X DVD+R, 8X DVD-R, 4X DVD+RW, 4X DVD-RW, 24X DVD+R DL, 40X CD-R, 32X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 40X CD-ROM)	Sony DW-D22A (16X DVD+R, 8X DVD-R, 4X DVD+RW, 4X DVD-RW, 24X DVD+R DL, 48X CD-R, 16X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM)	LG GSA-4163B (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 4X DVD+R DL, 40X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 40X CD-ROM)
DISPLAY						
Size and technology	17" LCD	17" LCD	17" LCD	17" LCD	17" LCD	17" LCD
Model	Samsung 710v	ViewSonic VE710b	ViewSonic VG712b	AOC LM725	Philips 170B5CS	Samsung 710v
Pixel response time	25ms	8ms	12ms	16ms	16ms	25ms
Inputs	D-sub	D-sub (captive)	D-sub, DVI, line in	D-sub, line in	D-sub, line in	D-sub
OTHER HARDWARE						
Modem	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Keyboard	Wired	Logitech Internet Pro	Microsoft Multimedia 1.0A	Microsoft Multimedia 1.0A	Logitech Multimedia	Wired
Mouse	Optical with wheel	Logitech optical with wheel	Microsoft Wheel Mouse Optical 1.1A	Microsoft Wheel Mouse Optical 1.1A	Optical with wheel	Optical with wheel
Keyboard/mouse rating	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★	★★
Extras			Epson Stylus CX3600 MFP	HP PSC1215 MFP	Epson Stylus C66 printer	
SOFTWARE						
Software included	Creator 7 Basic DVD, Microsoft Works Suite 2005, Panda Antivirus Titanium 2004	Microsoft Works 8, PowerDVD 6, Power2Go 4, PowerProducer 3, PowerDirector 3, PowerBackup 1.1, PowerCinema 4, Medi@Show 3	Nero OEM Suite, OpenOffice 1.1.4, Norton Internet Security 2004, PowerDVD 5	E-Trust Antivirus 2005, Nero 6, PowerDVD 5	PowerDVD 5, PowerProducer 3, Power2Go DVD 4, Medi@Show 3, Tech-In-A-Box 3, eTrust Antivirus 7.1.192, PowerQuest Drive Image SE 3	Creator 7 Basic DVD, Microsoft Works Suite 2005, Panda Antivirus Titanium 2004
Operating system	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home
Operating system restore option	Restore CD	Restore CD	Windows CD	Windows CD	Restore CD and partition	Restore CD
BUYING INFORMATION						
Parts warranty	One year onsite	One year onsite, two years RTB	One year RTB	30-day collect and return and one year RTB; three years onsite warranty on monitor	One year RTB	One year onsite
Labour warranty	One year onsite, five years RTB	One year onsite, two years RTB	Two years	30-day collect and return and one year RTB; three years onsite warranty on monitor	Three years RTB	One year onsite, five years RTB
Technical support times	Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-1pm	Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm	Mon-Fri 11am-5pm	Mon-Fri 9am-6pm	Mon-Fri 8.30am-6pm, Sat 9am-1pm	Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-1pm
Company founded	1972 (Watford Electronics)	1987	2000	1993	1988	1972
Technical support staff	129	42	Not disclosed	3	12	129
Employees	129	275	Not disclosed	70	518	129
Price including delivery and VAT	£650	£650	£650	£650	£650	£650
Price including delivery	£553	£553	£553	£553	£553	£553
Contact	Watford Electronics	Mesh Computers	Net-HighStreet.com	PC Nextday	Misco	Watford Electronics
Phone	08700 270900	08700 464747	08700 271339	Internet only	08000 388880	08700 270900
Web	www.savastore.com	www.meshcomputers.com	www.nethighstreet.com	www.pcnextday.co.uk	www.misco.co.uk	www.savastore.com



£900 PCs



MANUFACTURER	CARRERA	CCL	EVESHAM	MESH	PC NEXTDAY	WATFORD
Model name	Ultimate 64 3800-CS10	NF30-AL9 Home	Axis 64 MKR	Matrix Titan MAX	Zoostorm 6607	Aries Performa 7212
Rating	★★★	★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
Processor	AMD Athlon 64 3800+	AMD Athlon 64 3000+	AMD Athlon 64 3500+	AMD Athlon 64 3500+	AMD Athlon 64 3500+	AMD Athlon 64 3500+
Processor speed	2.4GHz	1.8GHz	2.2GHz	2.2GHz	2.2GHz	2.2GHz
Processor socket	Socket 939	Socket 939	Socket 939	Socket 939	Socket 939	Socket 939
Level 1 cache	128KB	128KB	128KB	128KB	128KB	128KB
Level 2 cache	512KB	512KB	512KB	512KB	512KB	512KB
Memory installed	1GB	1GB	512MB	1GB	1GB	1GB
Memory type	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200
Maximum memory	4GB	4GB	4GB	4GB	4GB	4GB
Motherboard	Tul AX480-GF	Biostar NF4ST-A9	MSI K8N Neo4 Platinum	Asus A8N SLI Deluxe	ECS nForce4-A939	ECS nForce4-A939
Motherboard chipset	ATI Xpress 200	nVidia nForce 4	nVidia nForce 4 Ultra	nVidia nForce 4 SLI	nVidia nForce 4	nVidia nForce 4
Memory bus speed	200MHz	200MHz	200MHz	200MHz	200MHz	200MHz
BIOS type	AMI	Phoenix	Phoenix	Phoenix	Phoenix	Phoenix
PORTS						
USB2.0 ports (front/rear)	2/4	2/4	2/4	2/6	3/4	2/4
FireWire ports (front/rear)	1/0	0/0	1/1	0/1	0/3	1/0
Networking	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000
Legacy ports	Parallel, serial, 2x PS/2	Parallel, serial, 2x PS/2	Parallel, serial, 2x PS/2	Parallel, serial, 2x PS/2	Parallel, serial, 2x PS/2	Parallel, serial, 2x PS/2
INTERNAL EXPANSION						
Case	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower
Case size (HxWxD)	440x202x480mm	445x202x437mm	435x198x499mm	477x210x465mm	436x212x458mm	435x185x487mm
PCI (free)	2 (2)	3 (1)	3 (2)	3 (1)	3 (0)	3 (1)
PCI-E x1 (free)	3 (3)	2 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)	2 (2)	2 (2)
PCI-E x16 (free)	1 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	2 (1)	1 (0)	1 (0)
AGP (free)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Serial ATA (free)	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (3)	8 (7)	4 (4)	4 (3)
Memory (free)	4 (2)	4 (2)	4 (2)	4 (2)	4 (2)	4 (2)
Drive bays 3 1/2" (free)	5 (4)	3 (1)	4 (3)	4 (2)	4 (1)	5 (3)
Drive bays 5 1/4" (free)	5 (4)	4 (3)	4 (2)	3 (1)	3 (1)	4 (2)
HARD DISK						
Model	Maxtor DiamondMax 10 (6L200M0)	Maxtor DiamondMax 10 (6L200M0)	Western Digital Caviar SE (WD2500)D-00HBC0	Maxtor DiamondMax Plus 9 (6Y200M0)	Hitachi Deskstar (HDS722525V/LAT80)	Maxtor DiamondMax 10 (6L200M0)
Interface	SATA 150	SATA 150	SATA 150	SATA 150	ATA	SATA 150
Capacity (formatted)	200GB	200GB	250GB	250GB	250GB	200GB
Spin speed	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm
GRAPHICS						
Technology	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express
Graphics card	PowerColor Bravo X700 256MB	Leadtek Winfast PX6800 TDH	Connect3D Radeon X800	Asus EN6800LE	Innovision Inno3D 128MB GeForce 6600 GT	MSI NX6600GT-TD128E
Graphics chipset	ATI Radeon X700	nVidia GeForce 6800	ATI Radeon X800	nVidia GeForce 6800LE	nVidia GeForce 6600GT	nVidia GeForce 6600GT
Graphics memory	256MB	256MB	256MB	256MB	128MB	128MB
Graphics/video ports	2x DVI, S-video out, composite out, component out	DVI, D-sub, S-video out, component out	DVI, D-sub, S-video out, component out, composite out	DVI, S-video out, component out	2x DVI, S-video out	DVI, D-sub, S-video out
SOUND						
Sound card	Realtek ALC850	Realtek ALC850	Realtek ALC850	Realtek ALC850	Realtek ALC655	Realtek ALC655
Sound card outputs	7.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF in/out	7.1 line out	7.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF out	7.1 line out, optical/coaxial S/PDIF out	5.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF out	5.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF out
Speakers	Creative SBS-560 5.1	Logitech X-230 2.1	Creative Inspire P5800 5.1	Creative Inspire T7900 7.1	Zoostorm 2.1	Creative SBS-560 5.1
REMOVABLE DRIVES						
Floppy drive 3 1/2"	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Memory card reader	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, Multimedia Card, Memory Stick, Smart Media, MicroDrive	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, Multimedia Card, Memory Stick, Smart Media, MicroDrive	No	External, supports CompactFlash, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick, Smart Media, MicroDrive	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, Multimedia Card, Memory Stick, Smart Media, MicroDrive	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, Multimedia Card, Memory Stick, Smart Media, MicroDrive
Optical drive	Sony DW-Q28A (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 8X DVD-RW, 4X DVD+R DL, 4X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 48X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM)	NEC ND3540A (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 8X DVD+R DL, 6X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 32X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM)	Sony DW-Q28A (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 8X DVD-RW, 4X DVD+R DL, 4X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM), Sony DDU 1615 (16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM)	Sony DW-Q28A (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 8X DVD-RW, 4X DVD+R DL, 4X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM), Sony DDU 1615 (16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM)	Philips PBDV1640P (16X DVD+R, 8X DVD-R, 4X DVD+RW, 4X DVD-RW, 24X DVD+R DL, 40X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 40X CD-ROM), Aopen DVD1648 (16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM)	LG GSA-4163B (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 4X DVD+R DL, 5X DVD-RAM, 40X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 40X CD-ROM)
DISPLAY						
Size and technology	17" LCD	19" LCD	17" LCD	17" LCD	19" LCD	17" LCD
Model	Sony SDM-S74E	Benlinia 10 19 02	ViewSonic VX715	ViewSonic VP171B-2	AOC LM925	Sony SDM-S74E
Pixel response time	16ms	16ms	16ms	8ms	16ms	16ms
Inputs	DVI, D-sub	D-sub, line in	DVI, D-sub	DVI, 2x D-sub	D-sub, line in	DVI, D-sub
OTHER HARDWARE						
Modem	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Keyboard	Logitech Cordless Internet Pro	Logitech Cordless Internet Pro	Microsoft Wireless Multimedia 1.0A	Logitech Cordless Internet Pro	Microsoft Wireless Comfort 1.0A	Logitech Cordless Internet Pro
Mouse	Logitech cordless optical mouse	Logitech cordless optical mouse	Microsoft wireless optical mouse 2.0A	Logitech cordless optical mouse	Microsoft wireless optical mouse 2.0A	Logitech cordless optical mouse
Keyboard/mouse rating	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★
Extras		AVerMedia DVB-T USB2.0 Digital TV Tuner			Ralink PCI wireless network card 802.11B/G, TwinHan TV card 1513-2015	Canon PIXMA MP110
SOFTWARE						
Software included	Microsoft Works 8, Roxio Easy CD Creator 7, Panda Antivirus	Norton AntiVirus 2004 10, Sun Star Office 7, CorelDraw Essentials 2, Marco Polo Travel Routing Europe 2004 7.6, Nero Suite 6.3, Prince of Persia, Splinter Cell	E-Trust Antivirus 7.1, Microsoft Works 8, Roxio Easy Media Creator Basic DVD 7, Sonic Cineplayer 2.01	Microsoft Works 8, Cyberlink PowerDVD 6, Power2Go 4, PowerProducer 3, PowerDirector 3, PowerBackup 1.1, PowerCinema 4, Medi@Show 3	Microsoft Works 8, E-Trust EZ Antivirus 2005, PowerDVD 5, Nero 6	Microsoft Works 8, Roxio Easy CD Creator 7, Panda Antivirus Titanium 2004
Operating system	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home
Operating system restore option	Restore CD	Windows CD	Restore CD	Restore CD	Windows CD	Restore CD
BUYING INFORMATION						
Parts warranty	One year onsite	One year onsite, two years RTB	Two years onsite, third year RTB	Three years onsite	One year collect and return; three years onsite on monitor	One year onsite
Labour warranty	One year onsite, five years RTB	One year onsite, two years RTB	Two years onsite, third year RTB	Three years onsite	One year collect and return; three years onsite on monitor	One year onsite, five years RTB
Technical support times	9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat	9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat	9am-5.30pm Mon-Sat	9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri	9am-6pm Mon-Fri	9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat
Company founded	1972	1995	1983	1987	1993	1972
Technical support staff	20	10	83	42	3	20
Employees	130	80+	419	275	68	130
Price including delivery and VAT	£900	£899	£900	£899	£900	£900
Price including delivery	£766	£765	£766	£765	£766	£766
Contact	Watford Electronics	CCL Computers	Evesham	Mesh Computers	PC Nextday	Watford Electronics
Phone	08700 270900	01274 471201	08701 609500	08700 464747	Internet only	08700 270900
Web	www.savastore.com	www.cclonline.com	www.evesham.com	www.meshcomputers.com	www.pcnextday.co.uk	www.savastore.com



£1,200 PCs



MANUFACTURER	DEMONITE	EVESHAM	MESH	NETHIGHSTREET	PC NEXTDAY	WATFORD
Model name	X8 PCI	Axis 64 GTR	Matrix Titan DVX	NET CS 1200	Zoostorm 6603	PowerXS 6202GT SLI
Rating	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★
Processor	AMD Athlon 64 3800+	AMD Athlon 64 3700+	AMD Athlon 64 X2 4400+	AMD Athlon 64 4000+	AMD Athlon 64 3800+	AMD Athlon 64 3500+
Processor speed	2.4GHz	2.2GHz	2.2GHz	2.4GHz	2.4GHz	2.2GHz
Processor socket	Socket 939	Socket 939	Socket 939	Socket 939	Socket 939	Socket 939
Level 1 cache	128KB	128KB	2x 128KB	128KB	128KB	128KB
Level 2 cache	512KB	1MB	2x 1MB	1MB	512KB	512KB
Memory installed	1GB	1GB	1GB	1GB	1GB	1GB
Memory type	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200
Maximum memory	4GB	4GB	4GB	4GB	4GB	4GB
Motherboard	Tul AX480A-GF	MSI K8N Neo4	Asus A8N-SLI Deluxe	Biostar NF4ST-A9	ECS nForce 4-A939	Asus A8N-SLI
Motherboard chipset	ATI Xpress 200P	nVidia nForce 4	nVidia nForce 4 SLI	nVidia nForce 4	nVidia nForce 4	nVidia nForce 4 SLI
Memory bus speed	200MHz	200MHz	200MHz	200MHz	200MHz	200MHz
BIOS type	AMI	Award	Award	Award	Award	Award
PORTS						
USB2.0 ports (front/rear)	2/6	2/4	2/6	2/4	3/4	2/4
FireWire ports (front/rear)	0/0	1/1	0/2	0/0	0/3	0/1
Networking	10/100/1,000	2x 10/100/1,000	2x 10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000
Legacy ports	Parallel, serial, 2x PS/2	Parallel, serial, 2x PS/2	Parallel, 2x PS/2	Parallel, serial, 2x PS/2	Parallel, serial, 2x PS/2	Parallel, 2x PS/2
INTERNAL EXPANSION						
Case	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower
Case size (HxWxD)	523x210x542mm	443x227x501mm	477x210x465mm	430x180x470mm	430x210x460mm	459x236x494mm
PCI (free)	2 (1)	4 (2)	3 (1)	3 (0)	3 (0)	3 (2)
PCI-E x1 (free)	2 (1)	2 (2)	2 (0, but 1 can be freed)	2 (2)	2 (2)	2 (0, but 1 can be freed)
PCI-E x16 (free)	1 (0)	1 (0)	2 (0, but 1 can be freed by moving FireWire ports)	1 (0)	1 (0)	2 (0)
AGP (free)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Serial ATA (free)	4 (3)	8 (7)	8 (7)	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (3)
Memory (free)	4 (2)	4 (2)	4 (2)	4 (2)	4 (2)	4 (2)
Drive bays 3 1/2" (free)	5 (4)	4 (3)	4 (2)	6 (4)	5 (2)	5 (4)
Drive bays 5 1/4" (free)	4 (3)	4 (2)	3 (2)	4 (3)	4 (2)	4 (3)
HARD DISK						
Model	Hitachi Deskstar (7K250)	WD Caviar SE (WD2500JD)	Maxtor DiamondMax Plus 9 (6Y250M0)	Maxtor DiamondMax 10 (6B250S0)	Hitachi Deskstar (7K400)	Maxtor DiamondMax 10 (6B160M0)
Interface	SATA 150	SATA 150	SATA 150	SATA 150	SATA 150	SATA 150
Capacity (formatted)	250GB (236GB)	250GB (236GB)	250GB (236GB)	250GB (236GB)	400GB (372GB)	160GB (153GB)
Spin speed	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm
GRAPHICS						
Technology	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express
Graphics card	MSI RX850XT-TD256E	GeCube Radeon X850XT	Radeon X800XL	Asus N6800GT	Inno3D GeForce 6800GT	2x MSI NX6800GT-T2D256E
Graphics chipset	ATI X850XT	ATI X850XT	ATI X800XL	nVidia 6800GT	nVidia 6800GT	nVidia 6800GT
Graphics memory	256MB	256MB	256MB	256MB	256MB	256MB
Graphics/video ports	DVI, D-sub, S-video out, composite out, component out	DVI, D-sub, S-video out, composite out, component out	DVI, D-sub, S-video out, composite out, component out	2x DVI, S-video out, composite out	DVI, D-sub, S-video out, composite out	2x DVI, S-video out, composite out
SOUND						
Sound card	Realtek ALC850	Realtek ALC850	nVidia MCP04	Realtek ALC850	Realtek ALC655	Realtek ALC850
Sound card outputs	7.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF in, coaxial S/PDIF out	7.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF out, optical S/PDIF out	7.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF out, optical S/PDIF out	7.1 line out	5.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF out	7.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF out, optical S/PDIF out
Speakers	Creative Inspire T6700 6.1	Creative Inspire T5800 5.1	Creative Inspire T7900 7.1	Creative Inspire T7900 7.1	Zoostorm 2.1	Creative SB5560 5.1
REMOVABLE DRIVES						
Floppy drive 3 1/2"	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Memory card reader	No	No	External, supports CompactFlash, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick, Smart Media, MicroDrive	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, Multimedia Card, Memory Stick, Smart Media, MicroDrive	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, Multimedia Card, Memory Stick, Smart Media, MicroDrive	No
Optical drive	Sony DW-Q28A (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 8X DVD-RW, 4X DVD+R DL, 4X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM)	Sony DW-Q28A (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 8X DVD-RW, 4X DVD+R DL, 4X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM), Sony DDU 1615 (16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM)	Sony DW-Q28A (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 8X DVD-RW, 4X DVD+R DL, 4X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM), Sony DDU 1615 (16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM)	NEC ND3540A (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 8X DVD-RW, 6X DVD-RW, 8X DVD+R DL, 6X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 32X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM)	Philips PBDV1640P (16X DVD+R, 8X DVD-R, 4X DVD+RW, 4X DVD-RW, 24X DVD+R DL, 40X CD-R, 32X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 40X CD-ROM), Aopen DVD1648 (16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM)	LG GSA-4163B (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 4X DVD+R DL, 5X DVD-RAM, 40X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 40X CD-ROM)
DISPLAY						
Size and technology	19" LCD	19" LCD	19" LCD	19" LCD	19" LCD	17" LCD
Model	Samsung 913N	ViewSonic VX912	ViewSonic VX912	Samsung 913v	AOC LM-925	Sony SDM-S74E
Pixel response time	8ms	8ms	8ms	12ms	16ms	16ms
Inputs	D-sub	D-sub, DVI	D-sub, DVI	D-sub	D-sub, line in	D-sub, DVI
OTHER HARDWARE						
Modem	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Keyboard	Logitech Cordless Internet Pro	Microsoft Wireless Multimedia 1.0A	Logitech Cordless Internet Pro	Microsoft Wireless Comfort 1.0A	Microsoft Wireless Comfort 1.0A	Microsoft Internet
Mouse	Logitech Cordless Optical	Microsoft Wireless Optical 2.0A	Logitech Cordless Optical	Microsoft Wireless Optical 2.0A	Microsoft Wireless Optical 2.0A	Microsoft Basic Optical 1.0A
Keyboard/mouse rating	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★
Extras			Digital Black Gold TV card	Asus Webcam	HP 1215 MFP, TwinHan TV card 1513-2015	
SOFTWARE						
Software included	Splinter Cell: Chaos Theory, Microsoft Works 8, PowerDVD 5, Panda Antivirus Titanium 2004, Roxio Easy CD Creator Suite 7	E-Trust Antivirus 7.1, Microsoft Works 8, Roxio Easy Media Creator Basic DVD 7, Sonic Cineplayer 2.01	Microsoft Works 8, Cyberlink PowerDVD 6, Cyberlink Power2Go 4, Cyberlink PowerProducer 3, Cyberlink PowerDirector 3, Cyberlink PowerBackup 1.1, Cyberlink PowerCinema 4, Cyberlink Medi@Show 3	Nero 6, OpenOffice.org, Joint Operations: Typhoon Rising, Power Director 3DE, Medi@Show SE	Microsoft Works 8, E-Trust EZ Antivirus 2005, Power DVD 5, Nero 6	Microsoft Works 8, PowerDVD 5, Panda Antivirus Titanium 2004, Roxio Easy CD Creator Suite 7
Operating system	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home
Operating system restore option	Restore CD and Partition	Restore CD	Restore CD	Windows CD	Windows CD	Restore CD and Partition
BUYING INFORMATION						
Parts warranty	One year onsite	First and second year onsite, third year RTB	Three years onsite	One year RTB	One year collect and return, three years onsite on monitor, one year onsite on printer	One year onsite
Labour warranty	One year onsite, five years RTB	First and second year onsite, third year RTB	Three years onsite	Two years RTB	One year collect and return, three years onsite on monitor, one year onsite on printer	One year onsite, five years RTB
Technical support times	Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-1pm	Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm	Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm	Mon-Fri 11am-5pm	Mon-Fri 9am-6pm	Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-1pm
Company founded	1972	1983	1987	2000	1993	1972
Technical support staff	20	83	42	3	3	20
Employees	130	419	275	Not disclosed	68	130
Price including delivery and VAT	£1,200	£1,200	£1,200	£1,200	£1,200	£1,200
Price including delivery	£1,021	£1,021	£1,021	£1,021	£1,021	£1,021
Contact	Demonite	Evesham	Mesh Computers	Net-HighStreet.com	PC Nextday	Watford Electronics
Phone	08712 223456	08701 609500	08700 464747	08700 271339	Internet only	08700 270900
Web	www.demonite.com	www.evesham.com	www.meshcomputers.com	www.nethighstreet.com	www.pcnextday.co.uk	www.savastore.com